



# Ugali Youth ORGANIZATION

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## Randie visits Maisha Girls Safehouse Nairobi - Newsletter

Sometimes last year I was online chatting with an American friend visiting Kenya 26 times over 15 years, I think. Kenya and her people are so dear to her heart. Besides, we share so many common friends from our past visit way back. She asked me, "Patrick I'm in Nairobi, would you like me to check on any project for you?" I immediately said "yes! Please visit Maisha Girls Safehouse", a project introduced to me by a close friend: Fr. Joshua Peters SJ and has since grown close to my heart. Maisha houses sexually abused girls between the ages of 11 and 23 years mainly from and around the outskirts of Nairobi slums.

The stories of these vulnerable girls broke her heart, she felt overwhelmed by their needs and concerned about their psychological and emotional wellbeing. A few months later she decided to do something to help these girls. Her organization [Hand in Hand Kenya](#) partnered with [Ugali Youth](#) to do a basic needs assessment that took over a month to understand their struggles. She wanted to make sure Maisha was an organization she felt comfortable investing her time and her donor funds on.



Together we hired Esther Azinga, a loving and caring mother she had known and trusted from her many visits to Kenya to carry out the needs assessment. Just as suspected, the needs were enormous. The girls had no consistent counseling/therapy to fight trauma. A small bedroom and three triple bunkbeds covered in Maasai blankets plus a baby bed in the walkway is all they had. Their housing need had grown so quickly that they not only needed more space but also strengthen their organizational structure. This would cater for the high volume of abused teenagers while complying with the Kenyan laws.

With the generous support of donors, my friend Randie flew back to Kenya on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2022 to meet Florence, the founder of Maisha Girls Safehouse to talk about the needs assessment and come up with how best to serve the girls.

Together we started working on building a strong organizational foundation for Maisha Safehouse.

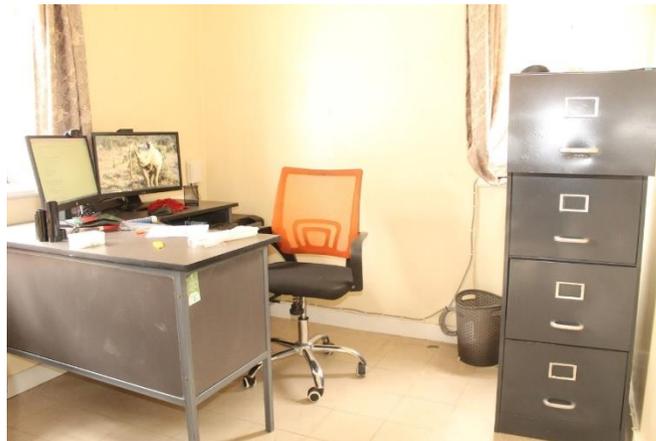
She is now back in Cincinnati, having hired a new staff member to help with Maisha's organizational systems, that is compliant with the NGO coordination bureau in Nairobi, Kenya.



She also helped hire a psychologist/ counselor on contract for the next 8 months. New resident girls will be able to receive 6 counseling sessions and the old residents will benefit from periodic much needed group therapy. These girls have been traumatized twice, first by their perpetrators and by their families who turned their backs on them.

She also set-up an office for the entire team with extra storage room and a counseling room.

Though a short visit, my friend Randie has done a lot for Maisha Safehouse during her visit and is planning on heading back to do more sometimes this year. Ugali Youth will continue working with her in supporting the girls at Maisha Girls Safehouse.



*The safehouse was featured on television in Kenya  
You can click on the link below to see their story.*

[TEENS OF BURDEN: Teen pregnancies & access to healthcare](#)

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If interested in learning more about Maisha Girls Safehouse please check our website [Ugaliyouth.Org](http://Ugaliyouth.Org) or our Facebook page: [Ugaliyouth Facebook Page](#).

If you would like to help in any way, have any questions, suggestions or just want to donate, please send a message to [ugaliyouth@gmail.com](mailto:ugaliyouth@gmail.com)

Together, we can empower girls and women to overcome poverty and abuse and reach their God-given potential. Thank you very much for your contribution and continued support.

Asanteni Sana!

Patrick Odongo  
*Director*

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